

**PRIORITY TARGET ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND
FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATING MEASURES (FM 6-71)**

■ **PRIORITY TARGET ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES** ■

This addresses the use of priority targets, copperhead priority targets, and final protective fires.

Your FSO may use different fire planning techniques to better support maneuver. For example, he can task-organize his available assets to mass fires on predetermined targets at a specified time. Other options are as follows:

Priority targets - a priority target is a target that, when requested, takes priority over all other requests. Priority targets are designated by the maneuver commander. He also gives specific guidance as to when the targets will become priority, what munitions will be used, what accuracy will be required, and what will be the desired effects. When not engaged in fire missions, firing units lay on priority targets. The brigade FSO can allocate as many as three priority targets to a six-gun battery or four priority targets to an eight-gun battery. Two priority targets may be assigned to a 107-mm mortar platoon, one target per section.

Copperhead priority targets - a Copperhead priority target is normally allocated to platoon-sized firing units. The number of tubes actually laid on the target is determined by the target size and type. It should be treated as a priority target with the purpose to destroy a specific HPT. Ensure that an observer equipped with a laser designator is in position. Ensure that artillery units are instructed to preassemble Copperhead rounds before execution. There is no such thing as an **immediate** Copperhead mission. It is a time-intensive munition. Have your FSO make you Copperhead smart, including limitations based on weather, smoke, angle of the observer in relation to the target, and the posture of the target.

Final protective fires (FPFs) - by definition, FM 6-20-40 states FPFs are designed to create a final barrier of steel that keeps the enemy from moving across defensive lines. They are desperation fires. The FPFs take priority over all fires, including priority targets. The firing unit will only stop firing when told to do so by the initiator or when the unit runs out of ammunition. The FPFs may create a barrier of steel against dismounts, but armor vehicles may simply button-up, speed-up, and drive through. FPFs are planned targets with a purpose. Adjust FPFs as time, mission, and ammunition allow.

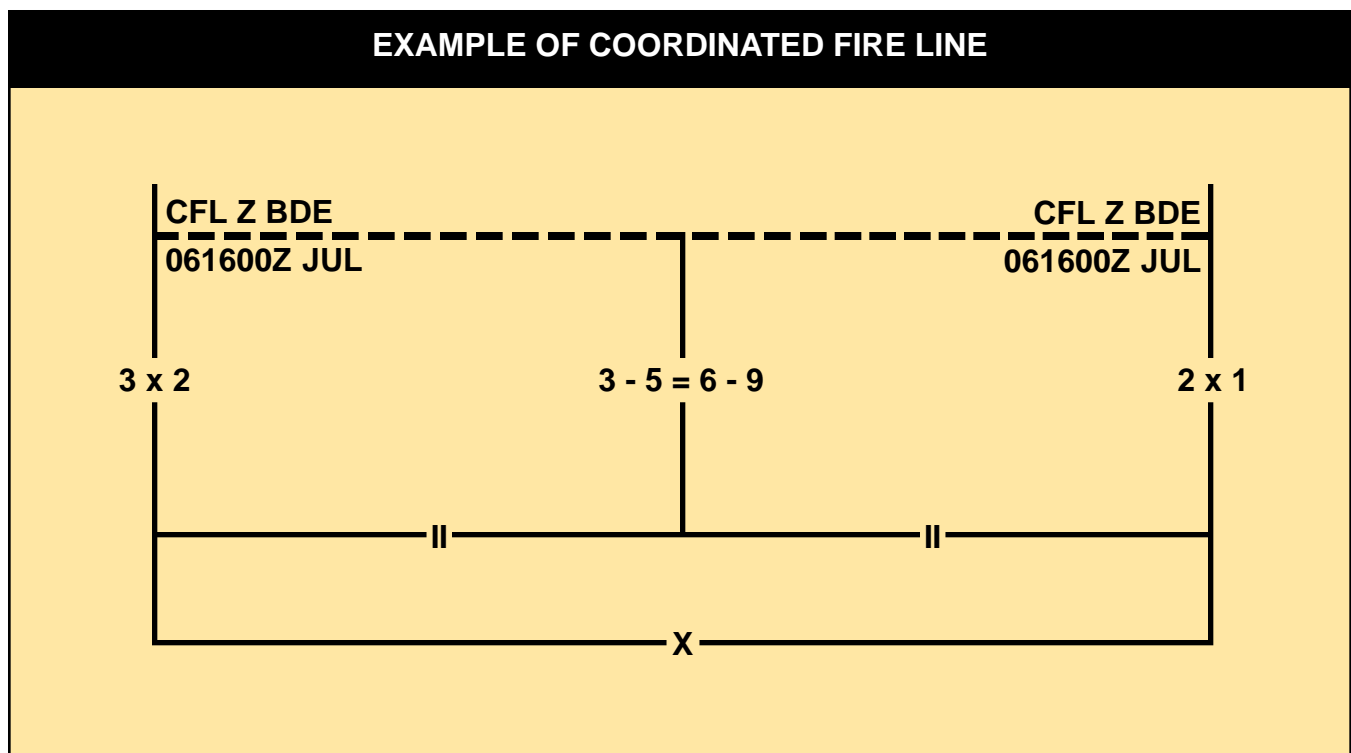
■ FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATING MEASURES (FSCM) ■

This provides information concerning FSCM. The FSCMs are designed to assist the rapid engagement of targets and, at the same time, provide safeguards for friendly forces.

PERMISSIVE MEASURES

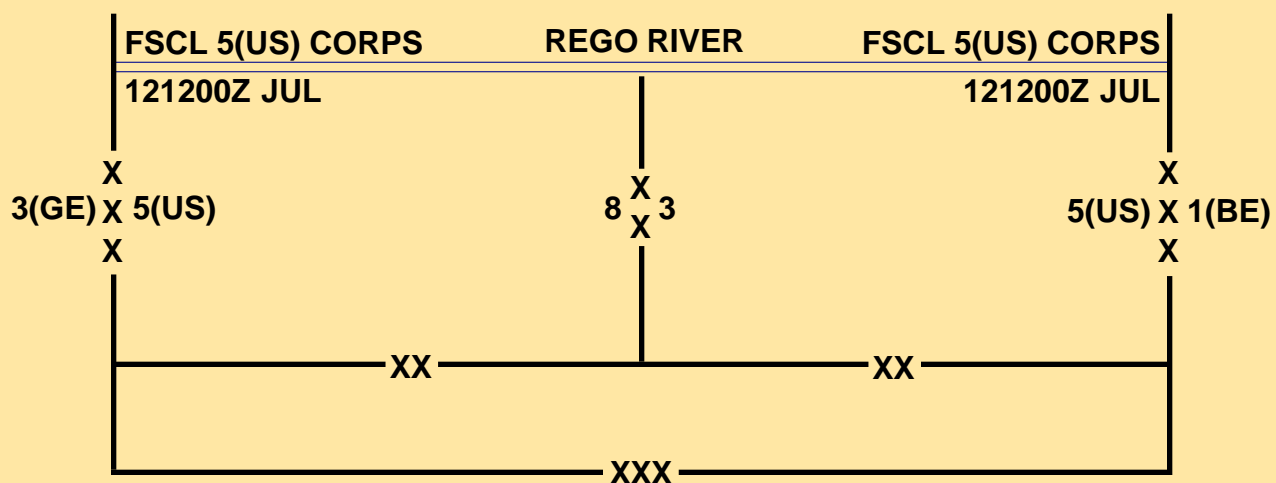
Permissive measures are those that expedite the attack of targets.

Coordinated Fire Line. The coordinated fire line (CFL) is a line beyond which conventional surface-to-surface fires may be delivered within the zone of the establishing HQ without additional coordination. Normally, it is established by brigade or higher HQ; however, it may be established by a battalion operating independently. A depiction of a CFL is shown below.



Fire Support Coordination Line. Corps may establish the FSCL within its area of operations to coordinate fires of air, ground, or sea weapon systems using any type of ammunition against surface targets. The purpose of the FSCL is to allow the corps and its subordinate and supporting units (such as the Air Force) to expeditiously attack targets of opportunity beyond the FSCL. The attack of targets beyond the FSCL by Army assets should be coordinated with the supporting tactical air. This coordination is defined as informing and/or consulting the supporting tactical air. However, the inability to affect this coordination will not preclude the attack of targets beyond the FSCL. A depiction of an FSCL is shown below.

EXAMPLE OF FIRE SUPPORT COORDINATION LINE



Free-Fire Area. A free-fire area (FFA) is an area into which any weapon system may fire without additional coordination with the establishing HQ. Normally, it is established on identifiable terrain by division or higher HQ. A depiction of an FFA is shown below.

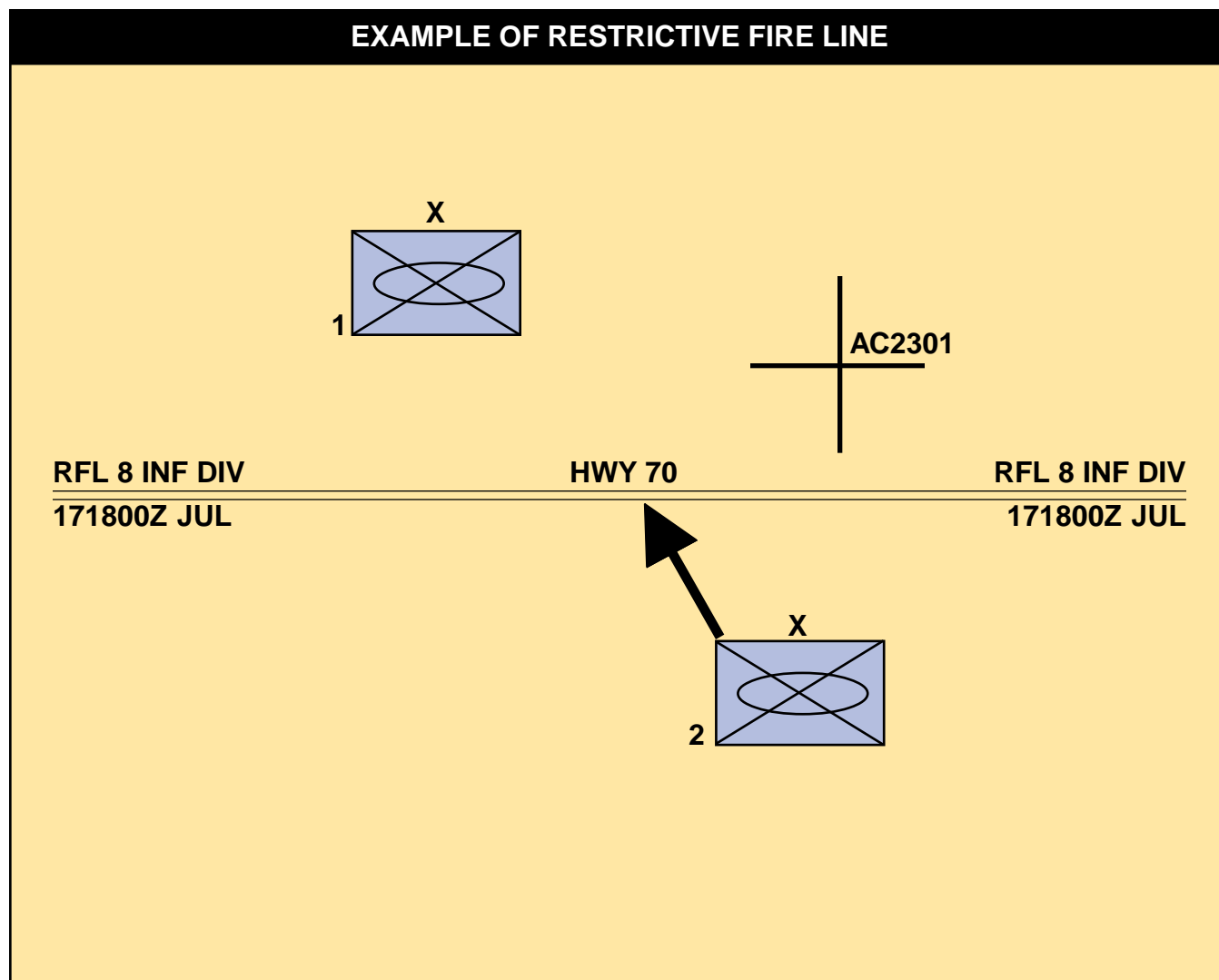
EXAMPLE OF FREE-FIRE AREA

FFA
 3 (US) CORPS
 EFF 081715Z JUL
 OR
 081713Z - N101700Z JUL

■ RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ■

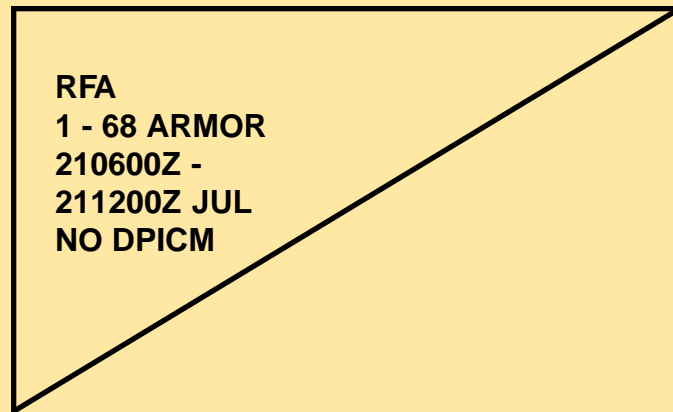
Restrictive measures are those that provide safeguards for friendly forces, facilities, or terrain.

Restrictive Fire Line. A restrictive fire line (RFL) is a line between converging friendly forces that prohibits fires, or their effects, across the line without coordination with the affected force. It is established on identifiable terrain by the common commander of the converging forces. A depiction of an RFL is shown below.



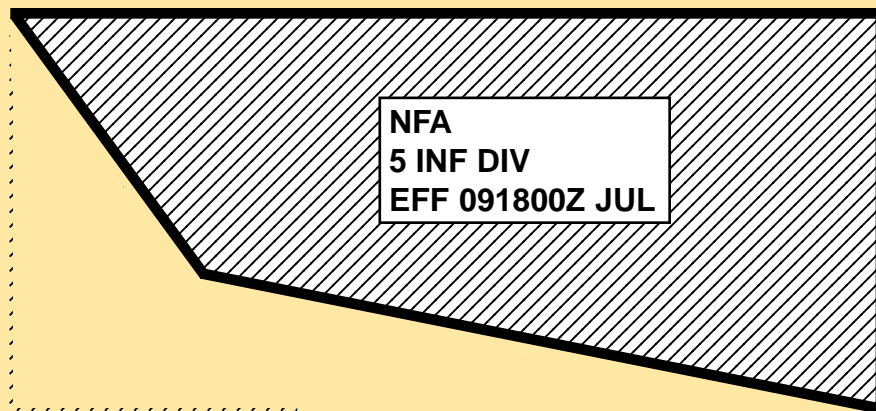
Restrictive Fire Area. A restrictive fire area (RFA) is an area with specific restrictions and in which fires that exceed those restrictions will not be delivered without coordination with the establishing HQ. It is established by battalion or higher HQ. On occasion, it may be established by a company operating independently. A depiction of an RFA is shown below.

EXAMPLE OF RESTRICTIVE FIRE AREA



No-Fire Area. A no-fire area (NFA) is an area into which no fires or their effects are allowed. An NFA may be used to protect a national asset, population center, or shrine. Tactical uses of NFA may be to protect forward elements such as COLTs and scouts. Two exceptions to the no-fire rule exist: when the establishing HQ allows fires on a mission-by-mission basis or when a friendly force is engaged by an enemy located within the NFA and the commander returns fire to defend his forces. A depiction of an NFA is shown below.

EXAMPLE OF NO-FIRE AREA



Informal Airspace Coordination Area. The informal airspace coordination area (ACA) is normally used for immediate air strikes. Informal ACAs can be established by using lateral, altitude, timed, or lateral and altitude separation. They are normally in effect for a very short period of time. Usually, the time period is only long enough to get the mission into and out of the target area. For a detailed discussion of informal ACAs and graphic depictions, see FM 6-20-40, Appendix A.